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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

(25 Feb 61)

25X6  
for Vol. Affairs? Amory  
for Bowles  
(info on?)

February 25, 1961

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MEMORANDUM FOR

THE PRESIDENT

The more I see of the developing pattern of responsibility in the Department of State, the more I am inclined to share the view of Dean Rusk and Chester Bowles that the key job over there will be the Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs. This has not been so in the past, but in the pattern which is now developing this officer will necessarily be a point of responsible action and coordination for many of the things in which State must take the lead, and must also work in close cooperation with the Defense Department and CIA. The man who fills this job will have to be an active and decisive person,

The first choice of all concerned for this job, as you know, was Dick Bissell, but in the light of your own feelings about the future of CIA, you urged him to stay where he is, and he of course followed your advice. What I now wonder is whether you might find it wise to reconsider that decision.

Of course, Bissell's work in CIA is extremely important, and equally clearly it will not be easy to find anyone else who has the style and quality to succeed Allen Dulles. But here's a possible solution: 1) Bissell as Deputy Under Secretary for Political Affairs in the State Department could in fact keep a sharp eye on the covert operations for which he is now responsible in CIA; 2) the broadest responsibilities in CIA are quite adequately carried now by Allen Dulles, and on the side of collection and analysis it seems to me quite likely that Bob Amory would be a first-rate successor. (Bob Lovett, who knows as much about our intelligence operation as any one man, thinks Amory would be better than Bissell for intelligence, as distinct from covert operations.)

NSC review completed.

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Precisely because we are putting more and more responsibility on the Department of State, this post of operating executive officer is really crucial. Neither the Secretary nor the Under Secretary can do this intense day-to-day interdepartmental job. There are very few men in town who meet the specifications, and none that I have heard of would be in Bissell's class.

One final argument in favor of this shift is that Bissell and the State Department would be very good for each other:

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McG. B.

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